

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 remain in the application with claims 1 and 6 having been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Niwa et al. in view of Nielson and further in view of Holtman et al.

As previously explained, the present invention provides an information retrieval apparatus and method in which the database is at least first and second dictionaries in different languages. In order to access the database, a display is provided that provides an information bar that consists of a plurality of lengthwise sections each corresponding to index-item information and being displayed in a staircase pattern, wherein a length of each lengthwise section of the information bar corresponds to a quantity of the index-item information therein.

The claims have been amended hereby to emphasize the above-noted features of the present invention.

As previously noted Niwa et al. relates to a document retrieval assisting method that uses feedback to assist the user in retrieving a document from a database.

Nielsen is cited for its showing of a plurality of dictionaries, as shown, for example in Fig. 3 thereof.

Holtman et al. is cited for allegedly showing an information

bar consisting of a plurality of lengthwise sections and being displayed in a staircase pattern.

Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that Holtman et al. does not, in fact, disclose or suggest an information bar consisting of a plurality of lengthwise sections being displayed in a staircase pattern where a length of each lengthwise section corresponds to a quantity of the index-item information therein, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims.

Holtman et al. relates to a clustering technique for high energy physics (HEP) data and does not disclose a staircase pattern, as recited in the present claims.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that Holtman et al. is non-analogous art. As stated in Monarch Knitting Machinery Corp. v. Sulzer Morat GH, 45 USPQ 2nd 1977, (Fed. Cir. 1998), to ascertain the scope of the prior art one must look at the field of the inventor's endeavor and the particular problem with which the inventor was confronted at the time the invention was made. Clearly, in setting up a dictionary access database, as in the presently claimed invention, one would not look to clustering and reclustering high energy physics data as in Holtman et al.

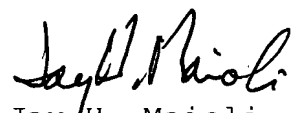
In any event, Holtman et al. is really only disclosing a technique to operate on the biggest job first and then proceed in a

diminishing order. This is not a feature of the present invention and does not correlate with dictionary searching as in the present invention.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a method and apparatus for retrieving information from a multiple dictionary database, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, are neither shown nor suggested in the cited references alone or in combination.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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